

MANUAL

FOR

MISSIONARY CANDIDATES

OF THE

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FOR

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

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THIS pamphlet is intended to serve as a manual for candidates for employment as missionaries under the direction of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It will be sent to such, as soon as they become known to the Prudential Committee by their offers of service, and should those offers be accepted, will serve instead of many written and verbal answers to inquiries, which must otherwise be proposed to the secretaries or treasurer of the Board. The Committee will always afterwards presume that the candidate has made himself fully acquainted with the contents of these pages, and that nothing need be repeated to him which is here contained.

I. *Outline of the plan on which the missions of the Board are to be prosecuted.*

This is here given, that candidates may see where the operations of the Board are and are expected to be; though it is not to be understood that deviations will not be made from it, when good reasons for so doing are presented in the providence of God.

Before presenting this plan, two preliminary remarks are important.

1. It is presumed that the evangelical churches of Christendom have entered upon the work of missions to

the heathen with the intention of publishing the gospel to the whole unevangelized world.

2. The American Board, however, as a missionary institution, does not undertake alone to publish the gospel to *all* these nations. Other societies in this land, and Christians of other nations, have entered upon this work, and others still will engage in it.

The plan is as follows. It may be found stated more at length in the conclusion of the twenty-seventh annual Report of the Board; also in Missionary Paper, No. 20.

Acting on the principle of not interfering with other evangelical missionary societies, and with the evangelical churches of other portions of Christendom,—since there is room enough and more than enough for all,—the American Board will direct its efforts to specific portions of the great field.

On the *African continent* the attention of the Board is directed more especially to the central regions, and at the same time to certain points on the western and southern coasts. The stations already formed upon the two coasts are starting points for the interior. A range of mountains extends from west to east through the heart of Africa. Recent discoveries lead us to suppose that a spur from this great central chain comes down to the neighborhood of our mission at Cape Palmas. If so, with the blessing of heaven, we may soon establish ourselves upon it. Taking another position at Cape Coast Castle, four hundred and fifty miles eastward of Cape Palmas, and advancing thence into the Ashantee country, we may soon occupy the mountain range at a more advanced position eastward. As soon as commerce succeeds in making a speedy annual passage up the Niger to Boosa, the Board propose to occupy some upland position near that place, twelve hundred miles in a strait line from our present station at Cape Palmas.

The Board propose, also, to approach the centre of Africa from the south. For this purpose they have commenced a mission among the Zulus near Port Natal, nine hundred miles eastward of Cape Town, and another in the interior, four hundred miles distant from Port Natal. If the region from these points to the centre of the continent be found populous, the Board propose, the Lord granting permission, to advance northward till our line of

missions from the west and south shall meet, and keep a jubilee on the mountains of the centre. The proposed line of operations from Cape Palmas to Port Natal is about four thousand five hundred miles.

In *Asia*, the Board have another great line of missions marked out for the enterprise of the churches. The line begins at Constantinople, or rather in Macedonia; runs through the northern districts of Asia Minor, through Persia and Afghanistan, down through western and southern India to Ceylon. On this line we have a station already at Constantinople, two in Asia Minor, one in Persia, three in western India, two in southern India, and a number in Ceylon; and two missionaries have been appointed to Rajpootana, higher up the line in western India.

Another line commences in Greece, passes through the southern districts of Asia Minor, through Syria and Palestine to Mesopotamia. On this line three stations have been formed among the Greeks, one in Asia Minor, and two in Syria and Palestine.

Another series of missions has been projected and commenced in eastern Asia and the neighboring Archipelago. The central point is Singapore, at which a station has been formed. It is proposed to extend missions up the populous valley of Siam, towards China in that direction; to the great neighboring islands of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo; and to the coasts of China and Japan, as soon as Divine Providence allows missions to occupy them. Already we have a station in Siam, another at Canton, and one or two in the islands.

How soon it will be practicable to extend our missions westward from the Sandwich Islands among other islands of the North Pacific, it is not now possible to determine.

The *Indian tribes* of North America may be arranged geographically in two classes; those within the limits of the States and territories of the Union, and those beyond the western frontiers. The former, to which a few years since missions were principally confined, are now removing from their present location; and, considering their prospects, may in the formation of future plans, be left out of the account. Their number at the present time may be estimated at 75,000.

The tribes beyond the limits of our States and territories may also be divided into two classes; the one embracing the tribes which have emigrated from the east, and the other those who now occupy their original country. The former are generally agriculturists and settled in their mode of living, and most of them are partially civilized; while the latter obtain subsistence mainly by hunting, are migratory in their habits, and savage in their character. The emigrant tribes, when they shall be joined by their brethren now east of the Mississippi river, will probably embrace about 108,000 souls, while the native tribes between our western frontiers and the Rocky Mountains, including about 10,000 Ojibwas on the north, are estimated to embrace 122,000. Of the number of those who occupy the territory including the mountains and regions beyond to the Pacific ocean, no correct estimate can be formed.

The western Indians have been approached at the southern and northern extremities of their territory. In the south, beginning with the emigrant Cherokees, Choctaws, and Creeks, the line of our mission extends to the Pawnee country, and thence, by means of the exploring tour performed within the last eighteen months, and the new station recently taken among the Flat Head and Nez Perces tribes, to the Oregon river.

On the north, our line begins with Mackinaw and the Stockbridge Indians, and proceeds on from the southwestern shores of Lake Superior, through the Ojibwa country, to the head waters of the Mississippi, and thence into the country of the Sioux, whose bands extend westerly to the head waters of the Missouri. Here we meet with numerous extensive tribes, through which the line should be extended till it intersect the first mentioned line beyond the Rocky Mountains.

The *facilities of access* to these portions of the world are rapidly multiplying. No science has made more rapid progress during the last twenty-five years, than that of geography; no art has improved more than the art of travelling; no enterprize has exerted itself with such amazing power and effect as that of commerce. Steamboats have made rivers as navigable as the ocean; and have extended the facilities of rapid water communication into the centres of vast continents. Already are

they on the Niger, ascending to the heart of Africa; and on the Ganges, the Indus, and the Euphrates, ascending to the heart of Asia. They ply between Calcutta and Bombay and the Red Sea; are found in all parts of the Mediterranean, and in the Black Sea; and have actually made their appearance among the islands of the Indian Archipelago. In all this we notice the wonder-working of the providence of God, preparing the way for his churches to publish the gospel every where.

II. *The various descriptions of missionaries needed.*

1. Ordained ministers of the Gospel. These are called, by way of distinction, *missionaries*. All others, whether licensed preachers, physicians, schoolmasters, printers, etc., are *assistant missionaries*, but, in the Reports of the Board, are generally designated by their specific occupations.

2. Physicians.

3. School-teachers.

4. Secular superintendents, in a few of the missions.

5. Printers and book-binders.

6. Mechanics and farmers, in some of the Indian missions.

7. Unmarried female teachers; rarely, however, except where they can have homes in the families of relatives, or in families where there has been the tie of long intimacy and personal friendship.

III. *Time of deciding whether to become a missionary to the heathen.*

This question, whenever decided, should be in view of existing circumstances; in other words, in view of the providence of God, as now perceived and understood. It should be with an humble reference to the divine will. "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that." The reasons in favor of an *early* decision of the question, are stated in Missionary Paper, No. 13. See, also, Missionary Paper, No. 4, entitled "The Savior's Injunction to his disciples;" No. 15, entitled, "Ought I to become a Missionary to the Heathen?" and No. 19, entitled, "A

Call to Personal Labor as a Foreign Missionary." The reasons are briefly these:

1. In colleges, and sometimes in the academy, the student may enjoy nearly or quite all the helps in forming a decision, that he will find in the theological seminary; and frequently he is old enough, and his judgment mature enough, even in the early stage of his education, to decide this or any other question of personal duty.

2. An early decision, of the nature proposed, is desirable in reference to its bearing on the mind and conscience of the student.

3. A student who decides early to devote himself to the cause of foreign missions, will be more useful to that cause, during his studies preparatory to the ministry, than he otherwise could be.

4. An early decision in favor of becoming a missionary to the heathen, makes a man more courageous and cheerful after he has entered the field of missions.

5. An early consecration to the missionary work will render a man more efficient and useful as a missionary.

6. An early decision to be a missionary will be no disadvantage to a man who is providentially prevented from becoming one.

7. An early and serious consideration of this subject, with a view to a speedy decision either that it is or is not our duty to become missionaries, with an occasional reconsideration of the subject, is the most likely way of avoiding mistakes in regard to our proper sphere of labor.

When a decision is formed to become a missionary, the proper course to pursue in relation to it is, neither to take pains to conceal it, nor to make it known. If a man is under the guidance of humble benevolence, with his selfish desires subdued by love to Christ and to souls redeemed by the blood of Christ, he will be in little danger of ostentation, and need not fear the consequences of having it known that he is aspiring to the missionary office, even should he afterwards find that his duty requires him to remain at home. A sincere regard for duty, and a resolute pursuit of it, are far less apt to be injurious to a man's usefulness, than is a timorous shrinking from responsibility when duty calls.

IV. *Qualifications of missionaries and assistant missionaries.*

Of these some are indispensable for all candidates, for the missionary work, whatever may be the department in which they desire to be employed; others are especially requisite in each of the several departments of that work. A brief enumeration of the most important qualifications of each kind is all that will be attempted here.

Of the first class, are

1. Decided, enlightened, uniform piety; comprehending correct views of the great doctrines and duties of christianity; strong love to Christ, and to the souls of men; and corresponding consistent habits in the candidate's daily walk with God, in the duties of the closet, and in his conversation and conduct in his intercourse with christian brethren, and before the world.

2. A full conviction of the duty of going in person to bear the glad tidings of salvation to the heathen, with a strong love for the work; such as may carry him cheerfully through the hardships, exposures, and discouragements necessarily incident to the missionary life.

3. Good common sense, sound judgment, and a good knowledge of human character.

4. An amiable disposition, including kindness, frankness, gentleness, forbearance, and an habitual prevailing desire to accommodate others, and render them happy and useful.

5. Firmness, patience, and perseverance, such as may, by the divine blessing, carry their possessor steadily forward through obstacles with cheerfulness to the end of his work.

6. Industry, economy, and the habit of attending diligently, faithfully, punctually, and thoroughly to whatever business he undertakes.

7. Good bodily health, and the prospect of enjoying it in the field of labor which he desires to occupy.

8. Good intellectual abilities; a mind thoroughly disciplined and trained to use its powers to the best advantage, and well stored with useful knowledge. Mental powers and attainments of the highest order, will find ample scope for all their energies in the missionary work. And in ordinary cases no one who does not rise to a re-

spectable mediocrity, in these particulars, ought to think of going out to the foreign field. Readiness in acquiring languages is especially important in most missions.

9. The desire and habit of self-improvement, as it respects religious character, intellectual attainments, and ability of every kind for the successful performance of his work. The man who cannot dispense with the influence and aid of those around him, in these particulars, is poorly fitted to spend his life away from christian society, and the common means of grace.

10. A readiness to labor to the best of his ability in any department, when called to it, and an unfeigned humility and preference of others to himself.

11. It is important that the candidate for missionary employment should sustain *a fair character* among those who know him, as it respects all the particulars just enumerated. Any gross neglect or deficiency in duty, any transaction in which he has been engaged, that has fixed a stain upon his character and brought him under suspicion, is to be regarded as a disqualification, and might, if he should enter the missionary service, bring much reproach upon the cause. His standing should be such, that when his intention is announced, the common, spontaneous sentiment of those who know him should be that he is well qualified for the work.

As to the second class of qualifications mentioned at the beginning of this section, viz. special fitness for the particular department of labor, to which a candidate aspires.

A preacher of the gospel should have a thorough theological education. He should have made such attainments in all the branches of theological learning, as would give him a respectable standing among the pastors of our churches. He should love the work of preaching, and determine to consecrate his time and talents to it, as the great business of his life.

A missionary physician should have, in all the parts of his profession, what would be esteemed in this country a competent education; and he should be prepared to make all his professional knowledge and skill directly subservient to the furtherance of the gospel. It is highly important that he should be well acquainted with the natural sciences, and well read on other subjects, especially the great leading topics of christian theology.

A school master should be well qualified, by his talents and attainments, to teach and govern a respectable village school with acceptance and usefulness. He should love to teach, and be devoted to it as the business of his life. Patience, kindness, ingenuity and simplicity in imparting instruction, in the manner best adapted to interest and awaken to action minds wholly uncultivated, are of great importance.

Mechanics and farmers should be fully masters of the business of their respective departments, and disposed to prosecute it industriously and economically, making all their labors subservient to the great object of the mission.

Persons engaged in any of these departments of labor, should be able to converse discreetly and intelligently on religious subjects, and to communicate useful information to the heathen around them, as they may have opportunity, in an interesting manner.

The foregoing qualifications are requisite in females, whether married or unmarried, who go out as assistant missionaries, as well as in males, so far as they are applicable to their sphere of labor, and their peculiar circumstances.

In all ordinary cases, it is expected that those who enter on missionary service will continue in it through life. Failure of health, and perhaps other causes, may occasionally furnish sufficient reason for their return to their native land. But in such cases, it is always supposed that the reasons for such a step will be so obvious and weighty, that the Committee and the whole christian community, who know the circumstances, will approve it.

V. *Time and manner of application to the Prudentia. Committee, for an appointment.*

If the candidate be in a theological seminary, the proper time for him to make his offer of service to the Board is at or near the commencement of his senior year. In other cases, it is desirable that the offer should be made not less than six months before the candidate expects to complete his or her preparation for the work, except in cases where females propose to go out as the wives of missionaries already appointed.

The offer should be written and addressed to the secretary for the home correspondence, or to the secretaries. It is usual for the offer of a female to be made through her intended husband. The candidate should give a brief history of himself, as to his age, residence, early education, habits, and employments, his religious experience, his views and motives in desiring the missionary work, the department of labor in which he wishes to engage, and the field he prefers, if he has any preference, with the reasons of his preference. He should state particularly whether he has a sound constitution and enjoys good general health, or the contrary; whether any thing in the state of his health indicates that he ought to seek in his field of labor a climate specially adapted to it; whether he is in debt, or expects to be so when his studies are completed; whether he has matrimonial engagements, and in short any particulars respecting himself, which he thinks the Committee ought to know in acting upon his offer of service. This paper, while it should be as brief as circumstances will permit, should be drawn up with great frankness on the part of the candidate. He may expect the secretaries to use a corresponding frankness toward him. No candidate should feel grieved if told that his prospect of usefulness in the missionary work will not justify his being sent forth. Nor ought he to regard such a reply as dictated by any other motives than a regard to his highest usefulness, and to the best interests of the cause of Christ.

VI. *Testimonials of Candidates.*

The Committee regard it as solemnly incumbent on them, before appointing any person a missionary, or assistant missionary of the Board, to obtain as thorough a knowledge as possible of his character and qualifications for the work to which he aspires. For this reason a personal acquaintance with him, or with persons by whom he is familiarly known, is very desirable. As this in many cases is not practicable, they are obliged to depend mainly on written testimonials. These should be obtained and forwarded by the candidate. They should relate,

1. To his christian character and his good standing as a church member.

2. To his natural talents and temper.
3. To his judgment, discretion, and common sense.
4. To his literary and theological attainments, or his professional or mechanical ability and skill, according to the department in which he wishes to labor.
5. To his diligence in the improvement of time, and of opportunities of usefulness.
6. To his capacity for acquiring influence over those with whom he associates, and his fidelity and skill in using them for their good.
7. To his manners and personal appearance and address.
8. To any peculiarities of character, habits or constitution, indicating special fitness or unfitness for any particular field or department of missionary labor.

9. To his general character and standing.

The proper persons to furnish these testimonials are,

1. The pastor of the church to which the candidate belongs, or where he has been in the habit of attending public worship, and is best known since he made a profession of religion.

2. His principal teacher or teachers in his literary course. If he is a graduate, the president or professors of the college that gave him his degree.

3. If he offers to go as an ordained missionary, the professors of the seminary where he pursued his theological studies; or if he studied privately, the minister under whose direction he studied. If he is a physician or a teacher, the persons with whom he pursued his professional studies should give him testimonials in regard to his proficiency in them.

4. It is desirable that one or more judicious christians, either ministers or laymen, who are well acquainted with the candidate, should give freely their opinion of his fitness for the work. In the case of a female, an intelligent and pious woman, in whose family she has resided, or who has otherwise become well acquainted with her, may give much valuable information.

The more full, minute, and explicit these testimonials are, the better. They should be sealed by the writers and addressed to the secretary for the home correspondence, or to the secretaries of the Board.

VII. *Appointment, and consequences of the relation thus created.*

The appointment and the designation form two distinct questions with the Prudential Committee. They need not be decided at the same time, and often are not. The first will be decided as soon as possible after the necessary papers are complete, and the second as soon after that as circumstances will permit.

Candidates who have received their appointment, cannot begin to draw upon the Board for their expenses, until they actually and by direction of the Committee enter its service. The Board does not pay the debts of missionaries contracted before their appointment, nor those which they contract afterwards without being previously authorized by the Committee. It is a standing usage not to pay any part of the expenses incurred in the regular preparatory course of study for their profession as preachers, physicians, schoolmasters, printers, etc. If extra studies are attended to, in conformity with the direction of the Committee, the expenses thus incurred are paid, if necessary, by the Board. No candidate should visit the Committee or secretaries, expecting the Board to pay his travelling expenses, unless he has been expressly requested so to do; nor should he after his appointment pursue any course involving expense on the part of the Board, unless expressly authorized to do it.

Specific and fixed salaries are given in a few of the missions among the American Indians, and in the Mahratta and Tamul missions in India. In the other missions, the actual expenses of the missionaries are paid, of which semi-annual or annual summary accounts are rendered by the missionaries to the treasurer of the Board. A limit, however, is now assigned to the aggregate expenses of each mission, and an approximation is constantly making towards fixed salaries in all the missions. Nothing will be gained in the end by fixing the salaries too soon. The Mahratta and Tamul missions are the oldest missions of the Board.

Such of the laws and regulations of the Board as relate to the missionaries of the Board, and their widows and children, may be found at the close of this Manual.

VIII. *Designation.*

Candidates for missionary labor should not be unduly anxious respecting their field of labor. Some countries possess attractions for men of peculiar tastes and habits above others, but the grand attraction by which the missionary should feel himself drawn towards any country or tribe, is the opportunity afforded him for preaching Christ where he has not before been named, and of exerting his agency to save the miserable and perishing heathen. This he will find common to all the fields where the Board proposes to send missionaries. Still it is to be admitted that intellectual abilities and attainments, habits, bodily constitution and health, and perhaps other circumstances, may render it expedient that a missionary should occupy one field rather than another. Too much regard, however, should not be had to these things. Ardent piety and good sense, with the divine aid and blessing, will enable a man to accommodate himself to almost any circumstances, so far as is requisite for the successful performance of missionary labors. There is much less ground for preference among the various fields of labor, than is commonly supposed. Every candidate should bear in mind also, that his judicious christian friends and the Committee may be better able to judge than himself, respecting his suitableness for a particular field, and that they cannot be supposed to desire him to go to any field, where, on the whole, they do not think that his labors are most demanded and can be most usefully applied. Still every candidate should be frank on this subject, and may feel assured that the Committee do not desire him to go to any field where he cannot go cheerfully, and where he cannot be convinced that it is best for him to go.

Before the designation is made, the correspondence of the candidates will be with the secretary for the home correspondence. Afterwards, if the designation be to the Indians, it will be with the secretary having charge of the correspondence with Indian missions; if to missions beyond sea, it will be with the secretary having charge of the correspondence with those missions.

IX. *Studies.*

It is not deemed expedient by the Committee, nor by missionaries already among the heathen, that the regular course of preparatory or theological studies should be neglected or curtailed, with a view to prosecuting studies more especially adapted to some contemplated field of missionary service. The furnishing and disciplining of the mind, effected by the ordinary course of education, is not certainly less important for the preacher abroad, than for the pastor at home; while the peculiar preparation required for a missionary in a particular country, may generally be much more advantageously made in that country than at home.

The experience of the Committee leads them to question the expediency, in ordinary cases, of an ordained missionary's taking the time necessary to attend medical lectures. Nor would they ordinarily encourage a physician to delay his departure, that he may pursue the study of theology, unless his age, etc. are such that he can go through a complete course. Nor do the Committee know of any circumstances in which it will be advisable for an accepted missionary or physician to visit any foreign country for the sake of pursuing study there previous to entering his field of labor.

X. *Agencies.*

Where a missionary has the requisite talents for an acceptable and useful agency, that service, for a number of months before entering on his mission, would ordinarily be found very useful;—by extending his acquaintance with mankind and with his patrons; by cultivating his power of exerting influence; by increasing his familiarity with the principles and motives on which the missionary enterprise depends for its successful prosecution; and by giving him a deeper insight, than he could otherwise obtain, into the peculiar difficulties which are to be encountered and obviated in raising funds for missions to the heathen. Occasionally, when the funds are low in the treasury, it may be very necessary for such candidates to perform a temporary agency before leaving the country. A considerable part of the early missionaries of the Board labored

some months as agents, and generally with very evident advantage in all the respects just mentioned. The great change of late years in the nature of the agency employed for raising funds, and the appointment of permanent general agents, have combined with other causes to prevent, in great measure, the employment of missionaries just from the theological seminary.

XI. *Debts.*

It has been already stated that the Board does not pay the debts of those who receive appointments as missionaries. Missionary candidates will, of course, be allowed the time and opportunity required for liquidating their debts before going to their several missions; and they should be scrupulously careful to see that all such claims on them are cancelled before they leave the country. They are expected to devise their own plans for paying their debts. It is exceedingly desirable that candidates should owe as little as possible. Students are apt to run in debt for books, but this is seldom wise. Nor should they run in debt merely because they have friends who are willing to advance them money.

XII. *Ordination.*

The missionary having received official notice of his appointment by the Committee, it is left with himself and his friends, or with the ecclesiastical body with which he is connected, to make the arrangements for his ordination. Care should be taken that the time, place, manner, and all the circumstances, be such as to give no just cause for dissatisfaction in any quarter, and so as in the highest degree possible to promote the cause of missions.

XIII. *Marriage.*

Health is very important in the wife of a missionary, though often too little regarded when making the engagement. And no where does a minister more need high intellectual and moral cultivation in a wife, than among the heathen, where she is almost his only companion and adviser. Early engagements are by no means desirable. They are not apt to be as judicious as when formed at a

later period. Nor is it well to defer all attention to the subject till the eve of departure from the country, though many excellent wives have been obtained even then. Parents very frequently object to parting with their daughters, when it is first proposed to them; and this will be the case until they shall have more generally taken this contingency into view while consecrating their infant offspring to God. If the objection is founded in mere feeling, and there is true piety in the parents, it may be expected to yield at length to a calm, judicious presentation of the subject. For obvious and weighty reasons, marriage should be one of the last preparatory measures. If the missionary is going beyond sea, *it should in no case take place until his passage is engaged, and the time of his departure is fixed and near.* If he deviate from this rule, it should not be without the previous knowledge and approbation of the secretaries of the Board. Great personal inconvenience and evils have been experienced by missionaries from not knowing or attending to this rule. A particular statement of the reasons for this rule would satisfy all as to the propriety of it.

XIV. *Outfit.*

The outfit of missionaries includes the clothing, bedding, etc. necessary for the voyage and for use immediately after arrival at the place of destination, together with a select private library, and furniture for housekeeping. Travelling expenses preparatory to embarkation, and the cost of passage, are not included in outfit. The necessary expenses for outfit, for conveyance to the field of labor, and for such travelling expenses previous to departure as shall be directed or authorised by the Committee, will be paid by the Board. It is, however, desirable that the relatives and personal friends of the candidate should, so far as they are able and disposed, aid in furnishing the outfit. It will increase their interest in the mission, and relieve the Board from a considerable expense. Of course, those pious parents, who would have aided their children with funds to commence house-keeping, had they been married with a view to residing in this country, will not withhold their aid because their children go as missionaries to the heathen.

Collections or subscriptions of money taken up at a public meeting, or out of the circle of a missionary's personal friends, towards his outfit, are almost always inexpedient, and often injurious in the end. If they are ever made, the sums thus raised should be accounted for by the missionary to the treasurer of the Board, as so much cash received for outfit. In like manner, clothing procured in this way, ought to be accounted for to the treasurer of the Board, and charged as a part of the outfit. Nor should a missionary afterwards receive, in any instance, a full allowance from the treasury for outfit, if friends of the cause have already contributed money or clothing for that purpose.

Application should never be made to an auxiliary society for aid in procuring outfit, nor for an extra allowance beyond what is given by the Board. If the allowance made by the Board is not large enough, it ought to be increased. If it is, the auxiliary ought not to be requested to enlarge it. Besides, irregularities of this kind would lead to evils without end.

Well made boxes, of the medium size, are more convenient for packing clothing than trunks. The boxes should be numbered, and a list made of every article contained in each. Things to be used on the voyage should be packed separately; and every thing should be forwarded to the place of embarkation in such season, and with such precautions to prevent a failure, that they shall be sure of arriving at least ten days before the time of embarkation.

By the rules of the Board no married missionary can receive more than 666 dollars for outfit, and generally the sum actually drawn from the treasury has fallen considerably short of this amount. Missionaries are sometimes fitted out entirely by their friends, and almost always are so to a greater or less extent.

It has been decided by the Committee, "that the outfit of a missionary drawn from the treasury, is not to be regarded by him as private property in the same absolute sense as that property which is inherited, or procured by his own personal exertions; but that it is to be regarded as intrusted to him for the specific purpose of being used in the missionary work; and that consequently, in case of his death or retirement from the service of the Board, his

outfit, if not needed for the use of his widow or children at the station where he has labored, is to be at the disposal of the mission with which he was connected, or to revert to the Board." The same principles are declared to be applicable to assistant missionaries, widows of missionaries, and all other persons to whom an outfit is intrusted.

Every missionary, knowing a few facts, and exercising some thought on the subject, may make out a list of outfit for himself. He needs to know the length of the voyage—the climate he is to pass through—that the bedding is not furnished by the ship—and that no washing is done at sea. He can then calculate what he will need at sea, and his wife can do the same for herself. If three sheets will be required for two weeks, how many will be required for the voyage? So of pillow-cases, shirts, etc. etc. The number of articles used on the voyage should be as few as possible, yet sufficient, with a few extras for sickness. In warm weather more changes will be necessary than in cold weather. Old clothes should be taken and carefully preserved for use on the voyage, or after entering the field. The mattress will generally be procured at the place of embarkation.

In determining what articles of clothing shall be taken for the voyage and for use after reaching the field, proceed orderly, beginning with the outer garment, and note down how many will be needed—thick and thin, coarse and fine, woollen, cotton, etc. Thus:—warm cloak or great coat; coats; jackets; pantaloons; suspenders; vests; shirts; collars; cravats; stocks; flannel shirts; drawers; stockings or socks; shoes; boots; overshoes; pocket handkerchiefs; hat; caps; watch, with extra crystals and keys; penknives; combs; pencil case and leads; brushes for clothes, teeth, hair, and shoes; umbrella and case; shaving apparatus; writing apparatus; bedding; towels. A lady should go through the same course in respect to her clothing. The amount of furniture to be taken must be determined by the locality of the mission. The different classes of furniture are crockery, glass, wooden, iron, tin, etc.

As a general rule, the articles to be obtained at the place of the missionary's residence, are those which are manufactured by the needle. Such articles are generally better made among friends, than those which are found

ready made in cities. Donations in stockings, shoes, etc. should also be thankfully received, and whatever other needful articles can be packed in a small space. But bulky articles, and also heavy articles, unless the place of embarkation is very near, should be procured at that place, the freight being a serious addition to the first cost of them. Bring a list, fairly written, of all the articles obtained. Clothing should all be marked with the name of the owner.

A passport, obtained from the Secretary of State at Washington, is indispensable to missionaries going to eastern countries, and may be very useful to all missionaries wherever they go. The following notice relative to the giving of passports to citizens of the United States designing to visit foreign countries, was issued from the Department of State at Washington, April 4, 1835; viz.

"As citizens of the United States, going to foreign countries, may be subjected to inconvenience for the want of sufficient evidence of their national character, the Secretary of State deems it proper to give notice, that *Passports* will be granted by him, *gratis*, to such citizens, on his being satisfied that they are entitled to receive them.

"To prevent delay in obtaining a Passport, the application should be accompanied by such evidence as may show the applicant to be a citizen of the United States, where that fact is not already known to the Department of State, and with a description of his person, embracing the following particulars, viz:

"Age, — years; stature, — feet, — inches; forehead, —; eyes, —; nose, —; mouth, —; chin, —; hair, —; complexion, —; face.

"Where the applicant is to be accompanied by his wife, children, or servants, or females under his protection, it will be sufficient to state the names and ages of such persons, and their relationship to the applicant; as one Passport may serve for the whole.

"Certificates of citizenship, or Passports, granted by the different States and municipal authorities in the United States, are not recognized by the officers of foreign Governments; and, for the want of necessary official information as to those authorities, the Ministers and Consuls of the United States in foreign countries cannot authenticate such documents."

The certificate of a Notary Public will be satisfactory to the Secretary of State. If access cannot be had to a Notary, then get and forward to Washington the best evidence within reach. Tell the Secretary where to send the document.

The missionary's *private library* should be eminently *select*. Its nature should depend on his particular profession. A large library is desirable for but few missionaries. In some countries it is exceedingly difficult to preserve books from the ravages of insects. In uncivilized countries they will be exposed to numerous casualties, and will often suffer for want of the care it is impossible to render. Should it happen that necessary books are not

taken when the missionary goes out, they can be sent for. A mission library is gradually being formed in connection with the several missions of the Board. A medical library, under the care of the physicians, forms a part of this.

Missionaries, previously to leaving this country, or afterwards, should not directly, or through their friends, order books, or periodicals, or any other articles to be sent to them at the expense of the Board, without being previously authorized to do so. A liberal grant of newspapers and periodicals is made to the several missions annually by the Prudential Committee.

XV. *Farewell visits to friends.*

A long time should not be taken for these. Better for the health of the missionary and his wife, and for all concerned, that they should be short. It is painful to see missionaries, and especially their wives, come on to embark, wearied out, and perhaps their health materially and permanently affected, by a succession of long continued, spirit-consuming farewells. Experience has shown that short visits are much more satisfactory in the end. The Committee, however, aim to give their missionaries as early notice as shall be in their power of the time of departure.

In taking leave of friends aim, in the spirit of christian meekness and love, to exert a salutary spiritual influence upon them. You are probably to see each other no more in this world. Leave them as if such were your expectation. At the same time let there be no worldly sorrow. The christian missionary, surely, ought to take the high ground of an immortal being. You and your christian friends hope to meet again. Let the thought of such a meeting as heaven will afford, and of the blessed nature of the work which calls you abroad, fill your minds and hearts, and throw over your deportment when bidding adieu to earthly friends a holy serenity becoming the missionary cause. You are not driven forth by any stern sense of duty, but drawn by inclination. This parting with friends for Christ, and from love to the souls he has redeemed, is a privilege; and so is this leaving of native land and the blessing of civilized society. While you

weep you will rejoice, and may it be with a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

The missionary, from the time of his appointment, should be sure and keep the secretary who has the correspondence with him informed where letters will find him in the shortest possible time. This may be of great importance to him, as his designation and departure may by various means be unexpectedly hastened or delayed.

XVI. *Departure for the field.*

Impatience is often manifested by missionaries to depart immediately to their fields of labor; or at least to know definitely at what time their departure may be expected. This should be suppressed by the reflection that numerous circumstances connected with the community at home, the Board, the mission, and the means of conveyance to it, may render delay unavoidable, or at least expedient. In respect to many missions it is quite impossible to tell definitely, a length of time beforehand, when conveyance to them may be obtained. Candidates should also be aware that the Committee cannot be less anxious than they to have them enter their respective fields, and be employed in their appropriate work, with the least possible delay.

The importance of having it known at the Missionary Rooms where letters will be sure to find the missionary, has already been remarked. This information should be kept at the Rooms from the time of his appointment, and indeed of his offer of service.

He should on no account fail of being at the place of embarkation on the day appointed. It is better too to reach the place on the very day named, than sooner, as he will not be expected before that day, and may find no lodgings provided for him, and the officers of the Board wholly engaged with other persons or things. The perfection of punctuality is in being neither before nor after the time.

At the place of embarkation he will be lodged in private families, if such accommodations can be conveniently obtained; and he should take care not to repeat the mistake which some have made on first entering a private family, of supposing themselves in a boarding house

Every reasonable attention will be given by these hospitable families to the comfort of their guests, but it should be received as a favor, not required as a right. By no means encroach upon the established order of the family, by unseasonable hours, morning, noon, or night; and by all means let the families see that their hospitality and kindness are appreciated.

The treasurer and secretaries of the Board will be found to be much occupied with business. The missionary's chief intercourse will be with the treasurer and with the secretary having charge of the correspondence with the mission to which he is destined. The secretary will give him all the advice necessary, but it should be remembered that he has probably to draw up the instructions for the company about to embark, and also to write by the vessel in which that company sails (in case it goes beyond sea,) to all the missions in that part of the world; and these letters are often long, requiring much thought and care in their composition. He will, however, render you every *necessary* aid, as a thing of course. The same may be said of the treasurer and of the other secretaries.

A competent man will be at the Rooms, whose duty it will be to advise the missionaries in the purchase of the remaining articles of their outfit, and if necessary to conduct them to places where these articles can most advantageously be had. Benevolent ladies, also, frequently volunteer to assist the females of the mission families in making their purchases, and in otherwise preparing for the voyage. The services of such ladies are always gratuitous, resulting from their deep interest in the cause.

Experience has shown that it is best for missionaries to be assisted, at such times, only so far as is necessary to enable them to be in readiness on the day of embarkation. They come on five or ten days before the time of sailing, on purpose to attend to this very thing; and it is better on all accounts that *they* should purchase the articles and pack at least their clothing and bedding. They are then better satisfied with the articles and with the packing, and they know where to look for a thing when they want it.

A full and accurate account should be kept of the manner in which all money received from the treasury of the Board has been expended, noting particularly what is for

travelling expenses, and what for outfit; and an abstract of these expenses should be given to the treasurer before embarkation.

An invariable rule with the Committee is not to delay a ship an hour beyond the time appointed for sailing. There frequently are delays; but missionaries should have all things in readiness to go on board when the appointed time comes, and expect so to do.

Public Instructions are not always given to missionaries on leaving the country. These are never regarded as an essential part of the preparations for a mission. Yet public statements of plans and principles, on occasion of the departure of missionaries, are useful to the cause, and the general custom will no doubt be continued, so far as time, health, and other circumstances will permit. Before the embarkation, the Committee and officers, with their wives, always meet the mission family at one of their houses, and the executive officers and the members of the Committee spend a part of an evening in familiarly imparting hints and cautions to the missionaries respecting their intercourse with each other and the ship's company during the voyage, their first steps on arriving at the place of their destination, their intercourse with their missionary brethren, their correspondence with the officers of the Board and with their friends, etc. etc. The latter part of the evening is devoted to christian fellowship and acquaintance. No missionary, male or female, should on any account fail of attending this meeting.

The ship in which the passage is engaged, as well as the accommodations on board, will be as good as the Committee are able to obtain. Besides the ordinary ship stores, the Board makes the necessary extra provision for the comfort of the sick. Missionaries should remember their calling, and not require too much, either for the voyage, or after having entered their fields of labor. It is easy to expend money, and where each one in a considerable company expends a little unnecessarily, the amount of the needless expenditure may be great. But with what difficulty is money for this object obtained! How many christians give only one-quarter of a dollar in a whole year! When tempted to expend this small sum unnecessarily, think of that.

Just before sailing, it is usual to unite in a prayer, and in the singing of a hymn on board the vessel—on deck if the weather permit. Friends are then requested to leave the ship, that it may be got under way. The singing of a farewell hymn by the missionaries, while the ship is falling off from the wharf, is never expedient. The crew are then hurrying to all parts of the vessel to set the sails, and the singing is necessarily troublesome and annoying to the pilot and officers.

XVII. *The Voyage.*

The following memoranda were drawn up by the Rev. D. O. Allen, of the Mahratta mission, at the close of a voyage from Boston to Madras, and received the written sanction of the Ceylon mission.

“1. When the vessel has left the wharf, the berths should be put in order and the luggage adjusted as soon as possible, to be in readiness for sea-sickness. Missionaries have sometimes stood gazing at the land and other objects, or conversing with each other, till sea-sickness has come on, and they have then been compelled to pass several days in circumstances more unpleasant than can easily be described.

“2. As soon as sea-sickness is past, (if there are several missionaries,) a few general rules should be made concerning the time and manner of daily worship, if circumstances will allow it; and also concerning the hours for study or reading, and for social intercourse. Also a list should be made out (if there is not one already,) of all the articles furnished by the Prudential Committee, or by the friends of the cause, for common use, comfort, and convenience of the missionary company. This list should be shewn to each individual, and the time and manner of using these things be determined. Some regulations of this kind are very important to the comfort of the company, nor should the making of them be delayed longer than is necessary; and when once made they should be carefully observed by each individual.

“3. As soon as sea-sickness is past, missionaries begin to think (as they should do,) about worship on the Sabbath. This is not unfrequently a delicate subject to manage, and nothing should be said respecting it to the

captain, or to any person on board ship, till the missionary company have decided upon the manner in which it shall be done. For this purpose some one should be appointed to converse with the captain, and it should be requested as a *favor*, and not as a thing confidently expected. The subject should also be mentioned to him at a suitable time—not at table, nor in the presence of his officers, nor of any other company, but when he is alone.

“4. All intercourse with the crew should be in strict accordance with the rules of the ship, one of which always is, that no passenger is to speak to any sailor while the latter is on duty, and especially not to the helmsman. Captains should be requested to communicate to passengers the regulations, etc. of their vessel.

“5. Never interrupt the captain or any officer while taking their solar or lunar observations, or while engaged in calculating their reckoning. If they appear quite willing to tell what their reckoning is, still they should not be asked too frequently, as this is vexatious, and quite unnecessary if each missionary will only communicate to the others what he has ascertained on this subject. If the captain appears unwilling to speak about his reckoning, then no inquiries should be made.

“6. Be careful not to be in the way of officers or sailors when they are performing any evolutions of the vessel; and in rough weather, when such are often to be performed as quick as possible, and both officers and sailors are in an excited state of mind, passengers should remain below. The windward side of the quarter deck is properly the captain's place, and should be occupied by no one when he is on deck.

“7. Be careful to shew due respect at all times to the captain as the commander of the ship. Remember that, like the commander of an army in the field, he is often quite a different man on board his own vessel from what he is in the scenes of social life. Be careful also to shew him due respect as the master of the family. Never ask for any thing with which the table is not furnished, (salt and water excepted,) unless health requires it; and then it is commonly better to mention it beforehand (with the reason annexed) to the captain or steward. Be careful not to make too much conversation at table, on subjects which, from their nature, are unpleasant to him, or in

which, from his want of knowledge, he cannot take a part.

"8. A part of the time on the passage should be devoted to acquiring further knowledge of the history, state, &c. of the mission or place to which they are going. Some missionaries have made many unhappy mistakes, and suffered much in various ways for want of knowledge which might easily have been acquired upon their passage.

"Every missionary, (whether man or woman,) who goes abroad, should acquire some knowledge of the different parts of a ship, as their names, uses, &c.; also of the philosophical principles on which a ship is constructed and managed at sea. They should also acquire some knowledge of navigation, as the manner of taking observations, and the use made of them in calculating longitude and latitude; the manner of ascertaining the progress of the ship by throwing the log; also of keeping the log-book, &c. Such knowledge can be easily acquired during their passage, if some method like the following is pursued. Let the missionary company agree to attend to these subjects at some stated times, as, for example, once every week. At such times let each one communicate to the others what he may know on the particular subject in question, and let arrangements be made for obtaining further information for the next meeting. Captains are not generally unwilling to shew their instruments, to explain their use, etc. as far as will be necessary, (if the plan suggested should be pursued,) for each person to acquire a knowledge of the subject above referred to. But they will very likely be displeased if called on repeatedly to explain the same things and to answer the same inquiries to different individuals of the same company. Every company of missionaries should have a system of navigation for their common use."

The Rev. Miron Winslow, of the Ceylon mission, added the following hints:

"1. Never find fault with the food at table, nor complain of your accommodations, nor of the ship itself. Commanders of vessels are exceedingly sensitive on all these points.

"2. Let your intercourse with the sailors be under the approbation of the captain, and be not too familiar, as that will weaken the authority of the commander, which must be in a measure despotic, or at least paternal.

"3. Let your ardent zeal, (and ardent it should be,) to benefit those on board, be directed by knowledge. Study times and seasons, and let patience have its perfect work. Be not over greedy, even of doing good. It will be well to postpone all direct efforts for the conversion of the seamen, until the good will of the captain and officers is secured, and the ship is fairly at sea. It always occupies several days to get things in "sea trim," as it is termed; and during this time nothing should be attempted with the sailors, and perhaps nothing until there has been public worship once or twice."

APPENDIX.

MISSIONARIES OF THE BOARD AND THEIR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.

1. Every person received by the Prudential Committee as a candidate for missionary service, is expected to hold himself at the direction of the Committee, both in respect to the field of his future labors, and the time of his going forth; it being understood, however, that his inclination, as well as his particular qualifications and other circumstances, shall be kindly and attentively considered.

2. Applications for employment as missionaries or assistant missionaries, must be made to the Prudential Committee, who shall carefully inquire into the character and qualifications of the applicants, whether males or females, before taking them under the patronage of the Board. In special cases, they are authorized to spend money in preparing the candidate more fully for the service assigned him.

3. A *missionary* is one, who has been ordained a minister of the gospel, and is actually under the direction of the Board. All others, whether licensed preachers, physicians, schoolmasters, printers, etc. are *assistant missionaries*, but, in the Reports of the Prudential Committee, shall generally be designated by their specific occupations.

4. Whenever any missionary or assistant missionary has, in the judgment of the Prudential Committee, violated the instructions given him, whether before or after entering the field of his missionary labors, or has failed to perform any duty reasonably required of him, they are authorized to dismiss him, in case they deem it expedient, from the service of the Board. In all cases, however, where the mission-

ary or assistant missionary has actually been named in any of the official publications of the Board, as having been received under its patronage and direction, the individual so dismissed shall have the privilege of submitting his case to the revision of the Board, at an annual meeting.

5. No missionary or assistant missionary of the Board shall engage in any business or transaction whatever for the sake of private gain; nor shall any one engage in transactions or employments yielding pecuniary profit, without first obtaining the consent of his brethren in the mission; and the profits, in all such cases, shall be placed at the disposal of the mission.

6. The missionaries and assistant missionaries are regarded as having an equitable claim upon the churches, in whose behalf they go among the heathen, for an economical support, while performing their missionary labors; and it shall be the duty of the Board to see that a fair and equitable allowance is made to them, taking into view their actual circumstances in the several countries where they reside.

7. When missionaries or assistant missionaries return home, their connection with the Board shall cease as soon as there is no longer a reasonable probability of their returning to their missionary labor.

8. When superannuated or disabled missionaries or assistant missionaries, or the widows of missionaries or assistant missionaries, return to this country with the approbation of the Prudential Committee, it shall be the duty of the Committee to make such grants towards their support, as the circumstances of each case shall require, and as shall best comport with the missionary character and the interests of the missionary cause;—it being understood,

(1.) That no pensions or annuities are to be settled on any person, and that no grant is to be made, except in extraordinary cases, for any other than the current year.

(2.) That, except in extraordinary cases, after the lapse of a year from their return, no grant is to be made to returned missionaries or assistant missionaries, who are neither superannuated, nor disabled by sickness, and yet are not expected to resume their missionary labors.

(3.) That missionaries and assistant missionaries, who return on account of sickness, and recover their health, and remain in this country, are no longer to be regarded as having claims upon the Board for pecuniary assistance.

(4.) That missionaries and assistant missionaries, who return on account of sickness, and partially recover their health so as to attend to the ordinary business of life for a number of years, are not to be regarded, when they again lose their health, as having the same claims upon the Board, as they had when they first arrived.*

9. The grants made to returned missionaries and assistant missionaries shall, in all ordinary cases, be charged to the missions to which they last belonged, as a part of the expenses of said missions.

10. When parents, who are missionaries or assistant missionaries of the Board, are desirous of sending their children to this country for education, or for a permanent residence, unless qualified and disposed at a future time to engage in the work of missions among the heathen, the Prudential Committee, at their discretion, may allow a sum adequate to defray the necessary travelling expenses of the children from the missions with which their parents are connected, to the place where the children are to be educated or to reside.

11. After the children have arrived in this country, the Prudential Committee at their discretion may allow, for a *boy*, an annual sum not exceeding fifty dollars;—the allowance not to be continued after the child is eighteen years of age, and the whole sum allowed for any one boy, after his arrival in this country, not to exceed three hundred dollars: and for a *girl*, an annual sum not exceeding forty dollars;—the allowance not to be continued after the child is eighteen years of age, and the whole sum allowed for any one girl, after her arrival in this country, not to exceed two hundred and forty dollars.

* The object of the 7th and 8th Regulations is neither to increase nor diminish the claims of returned missionaries and assistant missionaries, but chiefly to *define them*. The *seventh* regulation states what has in fact been the general usage in respect to those who have left the service of the Board. A dismission has generally been asked by the missionary, and voted by the Prudential Committee. A usage so evidently proper when missionaries cease to be directed by the Committee, and no longer have a reasonable prospect of again entering the service of the Board, is now prescribed as a duty in all cases.—Lest it should be thought that a dissolution of the connection with the Board as missionaries, involves of course a destruction of all claims on the Board for pecuniary assistance, Regulation *eighth* recognizes certain claims as existing, notwithstanding this dissolution, and defines them as specifically, perhaps, as can be done with the present amount of experience on this subject.—The approbation of the Prudential Committee, required in the regulation, may be either before or after the return of the missionary. To obtain it afterwards, it will be necessary that the mission, to which the returning missionary belongs, shall have formally consented to his return.

12. In ordinary cases, it shall be presumed that a child does not need pecuniary assistance, when no application is made to the Prudential Committee for such assistance by the parent or guardian; and the grants shall be made only for the current year, and not without reason to believe that they are required by the circumstances of the children.

13. In case children are left without either parent, and there is no missionary family, or christian friend, or guardian, by whom such children could be well taken care of in the mission, the Board will then authorize the removal of the children to this country, and will provide for them according to article eleventh.

14. The allowances made on account of the children of living missionaries, or assistant missionaries, in the service of the Board, wherever the children may be educated, shall be charged to the mission to which the parents belong.

15. The allowance made on account of orphan children shall, in ordinary cases, be charged to the mission to which the parents belonged at the time of their decease.

16. The Board regard it as not consistent with the multiplied cares and duties of the Prudential Committee, for them to undertake the guardianship of the children of missionaries sent to this country.

17. A majority of missionaries and assistant missionaries in any mission shall, in their regular meetings, decide all questions that may arise in regard to their proceedings and conduct, in which the mission is interested, the decision being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. At such meetings every male missionary and assistant missionary present, having arrived at the age of twenty-one years, is entitled to a vote.